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H.709

Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Shoreham and Taylor of Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; child welfare services; disclosure of information

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify that, in cases involving a minor who is suspected of abusing another minor, notice required to be served to the child suspected of abuse shall be sent to both the custodial and noncustodial parent.

An act relating to disclosure of information to the parents of a child suspected of abusing another child

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 4916e is amended to read:

§ 4916e. NOTICE TO MINORS

(a) If the person alleged to have abused or neglected a child is a minor, any notice required pursuant to this subchapter shall be sent:

(1) to the minor's parents or guardian; or

(2) if the child is in the custody of the commissioner, to the social worker assigned to the child by the department and the child's counsel of record.

1 **(b) For purposes of this section:**

2 **(1) “Custodial parent” means a parent who, at the time of the report of**
3 **abuse under this chapter, has the right and responsibility to provide the routine**
4 **daily care and control of the child. The rights of the custodial parent may be**
5 **held solely or shared and may be subject to the court-ordered right of the other**
6 **parent to have contact with the child. “Noncustodial parent” means a parent**
7 **who is not a custodial parent at the time of the report of abuse under this**
8 **chapter.**

9 **(2) “The minor’s parents” shall include both the custodial and**
10 **noncustodial parents.**

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 **This act shall take effect on passage.**